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Calcareous bodies are few in number, as in *T. solium*, but only about one-tenth as large; they are of about the same dimensions as those of *T. saginata*, but much less numerous.

Other characters enumerated by Guyer might be mentioned, in respect to which *T. confusa* occupies an intermediate position between *T. saginata* and *T. solium*. How widely the new species occurs is, of course, unknown. It may be that the existence of this intermediate species, has merely been overlooked heretofore; another possibility suggests itself—can it be that these apparently rare specimens are hybrids between *T. solium* and *T. saginata*, a thing, to be sure, unheard of heretofore, but not for that reason impossible. W. E. C.

**Zoological Results of Dr. Willey's Collecting Trip.**<sup>1</sup>—Naturalists have been looking with eager anticipation for the publication of the results of the three years' expedition of Dr. A. Willey to New Britain, New Guinea, and the Loyalty Islands. These results have now begun to appear in book form. Part I has just come to hand. This volume comprises papers by Dr. Willey on the Anatomy and Development of *Peripatus Novæ-britanniæ*; P. Mayer, *Metaprotella Sandallensis*, *n.sp.* [Caprellidæ]; Boulanger, on a Little-known Sea Snake from the South Pacific; Pocock, Report on the Centipedes and Millipedes; Sharp, Account of the Phasmidæ, with notes on the eggs; Pocock, Scorpions, Pedipalpi, and Spiders.

The account of the new *Peripatus* is perhaps of most general interest. It represents a new-subgenus, *Paraperipatus*. The ova are small and without yolk, and many embryos, in all stages of development, may occur in the uteri of one female. The embryos lying in the uteri receive nourishment from the mother and are born in a more complete condition than in any other species of the genus. This paper is accompanied by four plates.

**The Common Toad.**—It is a matter of congratulation for teachers of nature studies in our schools when a well-trained scientific worker will turn aside to put in an attractive form the story of a common object. This has been done by Prof. S. H. Gage, who in a pamphlet of some twenty pages has given an account of the life history and habits of the common toad.<sup>2</sup> The treatment of the subject, while

<sup>1</sup> Zoological Results, based on material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Islands, and elsewhere, collected during the years 1895, 1896, and 1897, by Arthur Willey, D.Sc., London. Pt. i, Cambridge, 1898. 11 pls. The Macmillan Company.

<sup>2</sup> Gage, S. H. The Life History of the Toad, *Teacher's Leaflets*, prepared by the College of Agriculture, Cornell Univ. (April, 1898), No. 9.

thoroughly accurate, is noteworthy for its simplicity and straightforwardness, and Professor Gage has shown himself a master in this form of composition. Not a little of the success of the pamphlet is due to the illustrations, which show a happy blending of informational and decorative purposes. In one respect only does the text seem open to some criticism; the occasional endowment of the toad with semi-human faculties, while adding to the interest of the composition, is perhaps not wholly consistent with nature. The account is full of suggestions for outdoor studies, and concludes with some appropriate book references for the teacher.

G. H. P.

**Eyes of Annelids.** — The histological structure of the eyes of the free-living marine annelids has been investigated by K. E. Schreiner.<sup>1</sup> In *Nereis* the retina consisted of pigmented retinal cells and non-nervous supporting cells. In all other annelids examined, *Eunice*, *Hesione*, *Lepidonotus*, *Phyllodoce*, *Asterope*, and *Alciope*, only pigmented retinal cells were observed. This difference the author believes to be of fundamental importance, and he therefore separates *Nereis*, so far as its eyes are concerned, from the other annelids. The remaining forms then make a natural series, from those with open cup-like eyes, such as are found in *Eunice*, to the closed vesicular eyes of *Alciope*.

G. H. P.

**Mesoplodon on the Norway Coast.** — J. A. Grieg records the capture in August, 1895, on the Norway coast, of two specimens of the whale, *Mesoplodon bidens* Sow.<sup>2</sup> Previously this species had been noted in Scandinavian waters only five times. Of one specimen, presumably a female, only the skeleton was obtained; the other, a male, received with the flesh on it, was photographed, and a cast made of it. Both specimens were mounted as skeletons for the Bergen Museum, and Grieg's paper is occupied largely with an account of their osteology. It is reported that when the first one, which was found stranded alive, was shot, it made a noise like a calf being butchered.

G. H. P.

**Variation in Actinians.** — J. A. Clubb has undertaken to examine large numbers of the common species of actinians found in the neighborhood of Liverpool, England, with the intention of ascertain-

<sup>1</sup> Schreiner, K. E. Histologische Studien über die Augen der freilebenden marinen Borstenwürmer, *Bergens Museums Aarbog*, 1897, No. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Grieg, J. A. *Mesoplodon bidens* Sow, *Bergens Museums Aarbog*, 1897, No. 5.